



**AMERICAN
GREAT LAKES PORTS
ASSOCIATION**

PRESS RELEASE

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Steve Fisher to Address Michigan Senate and Michigan Port Collaborative Shipping Industry Economic Impact Study Results Presented

Washington, D.C. (October 25, 2011) – Steven A. Fisher, Executive Director, American Great Lakes Ports Association, today addressed a joint meeting of the Senate Transportation and Economic Development Committees on a new study analyzing the economic impacts of the maritime industry along the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway navigation system. The study was commissioned by members of the marine shipping industry, in partnership with U.S. and Canadian government agencies.

The results of the year-long study were released to industry stakeholders in Washington, D.C. and Ottawa, Ontario on October 18. The study found that maritime commerce supported 227,000 jobs; contributed \$14.1 billion in annual personal income, \$33.5 billion in business revenue, and \$6.4 billion in local purchases; and added \$4.6 billion to federal, state/provincial, and local tax revenues. North American farmers, steel producers, construction firms, food manufacturers, and power generators depend on the 164 million metric tons of essential raw materials and finished products that are moved annually on the system. Additionally, marine shipping saves companies approximately \$3.6 billion per year in transportation costs compared to the next least-costly land-based alternative.

The purpose of the report is to provide the navigation community, transportation planners, government policy makers and the general public with a realistic assessment of the contributions made by the Great Lakes-Seaway system to federal, state/provincial and local economies. The study methodology and results of the analysis were peer reviewed by leading U.S. and Canadian economists in academia and the private sector.

Fisher will also make a presentation about the study at the Michigan Port Collaborative Fall 2011 Summit on October 26. The one-day meeting brings together a broad cross-section of the state's maritime industry leaders and port representatives.

Fisher has served as Executive Director of the American Great Lakes Ports Association since 1994. Based in Washington, D.C., the Association represents the 13 public port authorities on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes. The Association's mission is to promote maritime commerce on the Great Lakes with the goal of creating jobs and fostering economic development via a competitive and sustainable waterborne transportation system.

Copies of "The Economic Impacts of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System" can be found on the Home Page of the Marine Delivers website: www.marinedelivers.com. Additionally, B-roll video and still photographs are available for the press under the News button/Media.